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2009 Review—ISU Dairy Farm, Ames, Iowa

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2009 Review – ISU Dairy Farm Ames, Iowa

A.S. Leaflet R2569

Joe Detrick, farm superintendent

History

Originally, dairy cattle were maintained on the north-east area of Iowa State College's central campus. In 1907, the dairy moved south of campus to Mortensen Road. At the end of WW II, Iowa State University purchased a tract of land on the south edge of Ankeny for \$1.00 and dairy, beef, swine, and poultry were raised on this second site. The Ankeny dairy research herd began when Holstein heifers were purchased from Iowa dairy producers. In 1974, the south central part of the land was provided for the establishment of Des Moines Area Community College. When the ISU Dairy Farm in Ames closed in 2003, 200 dairy cattle were relocated to the Ankeny farm and 50 Jerseys were relocated temporarily with the Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) herd near Calmar, IA.

Construction of the new ISU Dairy south of the city of Ames began in 2006. Livestock were moved from the Ankeny location to the new facility on November 26-27, 2007. Descendants of fifty Jerseys moved to the NICC herd returned to the new farm on November 27, 2007. The new farm accommodates 450 lactating cows milked in a double twelve parallel parlor.

Mission

To provide animals and facilities for teaching, research and extension efforts of the department and university.

Farm Resources

Staff and employees at the Dairy Farm now manage over 700 head of dairy cattle from bottle calves to lactating cows. Along with the Farm Manager, there are 20 college students, 9 full-time and 3 part-time employees.

The farm stock today consists primarily of Holstein, along with Jersey, Guernsey, Brown Swiss, Ayrshire, and Milking Shorthorn. The lactating herd expanded from 315 to 350 head during the 2008 fiscal year.

There is a commodity shed for feeds from outside vendors. Commodities include whole cottonseed, grain, and hay. The new location provides easier access for the vendors.

A hospital area allows veterinary care for the cattle as well as educational opportunity for veterinary students. The space will also be accessible for research projects.

A classroom with a lab is used by ISU students and professors for teaching purposes. A viewing center allows the public to observe the milking process.

Research

The main goal of the Dairy Farm is to conduct research related to the dairy industry. Data collected on these animals includes complete health, and production information. Work continues with the Brown Swiss Association on an embryo transfer program to establish a herd of 50 lactating Brown Swiss. The farm has completed feed trials, pre- and post-teat dips are being tested, and projects involving calves, fresh cows, and mastitis cows are ongoing.

Classes

Animal Science courses that use the dairy farm include:

- AnS 101(Working with Animals)
- AnS 235 (Dairy Cattle Science)
- AnS 332 (Laboratory Methods in Animal Reproduction)
- AnS 334 (Embryo Transfer Laboratory)
- AnS 335 (Dairy Cattle Selection)
- AnS 336 (Domestic Animal Behavior and Well-Being)
- AnS 337 (Lactation)
- AnS 434 (Dairy Systems Management)
- AnS 475B (Intercollegiate Judging Training and Competition)

Other courses using the dairy farm have included:

- Ag Eng 216 (Fundamentals of Ag and Biosystems Engineering)
- ECON 110 (Ag Business)
- VDPAM 340 (Clinical Foundations)
- VDPAM 416 (Basic Bovine Palpation)
- VDPAM 438 (Mastitis Problem Investigations)
- VDPAM 484 (Dairy Production Medicine)

Outreach Activities

The Dairy Science Club members use cattle for their Little North American showmanship competition. Tours are available to interested groups. International guests, ISU students, and 4-H clubs have visited along with approximately 200 elementary students each year. Over 2500 people toured the dairy farm during the 2008 fiscal year.

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“Jersey Jewel” sculpted by Norma “Duffy” Lyon sits at the entrance of the new Ames Dairy Farm.



Lucas Shau operating the feeding tractor.



First calf born – New Dairy Farm
November 27, 2007 8:30 a.m.



First meal – free stall barn
November 27, 2007.